

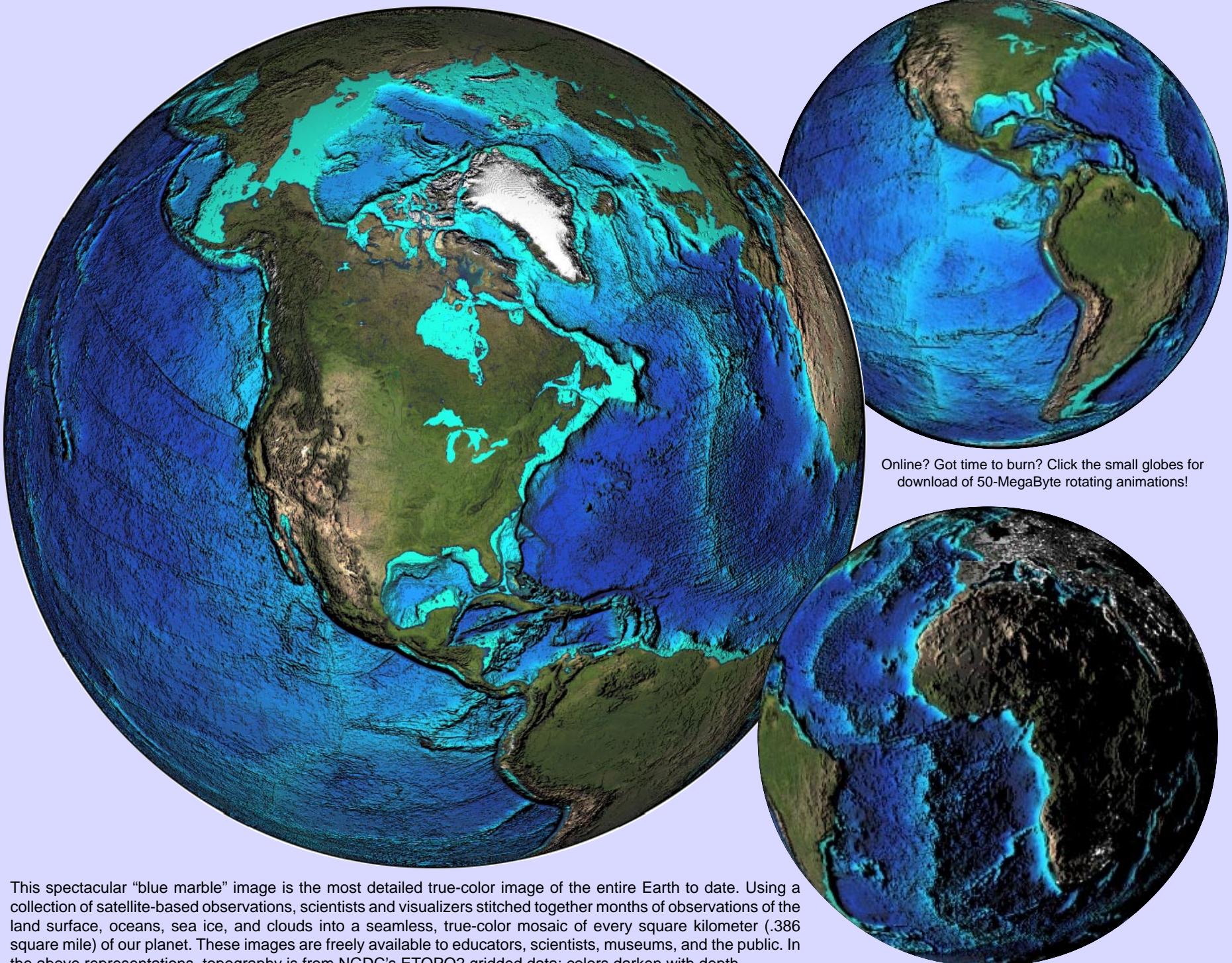


United States Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service



National Geophysical Data Center (NGDC)

Earth shows its “true” colors



Online? Got time to burn? Click the small globes for download of 50-MegaByte rotating animations!

This spectacular “blue marble” image is the most detailed true-color image of the entire Earth to date. Using a collection of satellite-based observations, scientists and visualizers stitched together months of observations of the land surface, oceans, sea ice, and clouds into a seamless, true-color mosaic of every square kilometer (.386 square mile) of our planet. These images are freely available to educators, scientists, museums, and the public. In the above representations, topography is from NGDC’s ETOPO2 gridded data; colors darken with depth.

Land Image Credits: NASA Goddard Space Flight Center Image by Reto Stöckli (land surface, shallow water, clouds). Data and technical support: MODIS Land Group; MODIS Science Data Support Team; MODIS Atmosphere Group; MODIS Ocean Group Additional data: USGS EROS Data Center (topography); USGS Terrestrial Remote Sensing Flagstaff Field Center (Antarctica); Defense Meteorological Satellite Program and NGDC (city lights).

June 2002

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S M T W T F S

Underlying scientific data viewable at: <http://www.ngdc.noaa.gov/ngdc.html>